

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

EUMECES ANTHRACINUS (BAIRD) IN VIRGINIA.

At the time of the publication of Taylor's study of the genus *Eumeces* (1935, Univ. Kan. Sci. Bull., Vol. 23), there were no published records or museum specimens of *Eumeces anthracinus* from Virginia. There were two localities listed for Maryland, however, and several for North Carolina. Taylor's review of the recent literature on the genus in 1943 (Univ. Kan. Sci. Bull., Vol. 29, Pt. 2, No. 5) lists several new localities in the eastern states, including the first records for the species in Kentucky and Georgia.

The purpose of the present report is to call attention to the discovery of *E. anthracinus* in Virginia. On March 25, 1944, an adult specimen was collected at Clifton Forge, Alleghany County, at an elevation of 1090 feet. The skink was first seen crossing a dirt road and when disturbed it ran but a short distance, taking cover in a clump of plantains. In life this specimen had a greenish tinge, especially on the ventral surface. The gular suffusion was very reddish, the color extending onto the lower labials. It may be of interest to note that this skink has 6 upper labials and 28 scale rows.

In March, 1942, a juvenile of this species about 40-50 mm in total length was discovered under a stone on the top of Middle Mountain (Alleghany County, 3 miles north of Clifton Forge), at an elevation of 3000 feet. At the time of collecting the weather was cold and windy, although the sun was shining. This specimen, while kept in captivity, fed regularly upon earthworms. Under the stone where this lizard was found was a considerable amount of various insect debris, mostly wing sheaths of small beetles.

On June 26, 1944, an adult specimen was seen at the same place on Middle Mountain as was the juvenile taken in 1942. The day was clear and hot, and the skink was basking in the trail. It escaped through leaves and brush and disappeared into a crevice in the limestone ledges along the mountain top.

It seems that in the central part of its eastern range *anthracinus* is more

or less restricted to mountainous regions, and all the records listed by Taylor for the eastern states (with the exception of the Alabama "*pluvialis*" specimens) are all at least 1000 feet above sea level, most over 2000. Perhaps more collecting at higher altitudes in the Alleghany and Blue Ridge Mountains might dispel part of the supposed rarity of *E. anthracinus*.

I wish to express appreciation to Mr. J. A. Fowler, who has had the kindness to read the manuscript for this note and make helpful comments.

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NOTES ON *CNEMIDOPHORUS SEXLINEATUS* IN VIRGINIA.

Judging from previous locality records, chiefly those published by Burt (1931, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 154: 91), it would seem that *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* (Linnaeus) is a species restricted, on the Atlantic coast, to the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. In Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, *sexlineatus* appears to be indigenous to the Coastal Plain, occurring in the Piedmont only along rivers. In the eastern states considered most of the localities were at rather low altitudes, only a few being over 500 feet. Except for one North Carolina report (Black Mountain, Buncombe County), there have been no records of the species occurring in the Blue Ridge Province. Recently, however, *sexlineatus* has been found west of the Blue Ridge in the state of Virginia.

On May 19, 1944, two females were taken in a small hollow just north of Clifton Forge, Alleghany County. These lizards were found sunning in the road; when disturbed they attempted to take cover first by hiding in low vegetation, later by burrowing in the loose shale of a nearby hillside. On August 23, 1944, an adult was collected at Eagle Mountain, Botetourt County. It was seen on the tracks of the C. & O. Railroad, and attempted to avoid capture by hiding in the ballast under a rail. Several juveniles, one with a greenish tail, were seen at this locality. Another specimen was taken at Clifton Forge on September 17, 1944.

It is interesting to note that these specimens differ somewhat from the bulk of the *sexlineatus* population in having 3 supraoculars and in having the two outer parietals horizontally divided. Two of the specimens have 4 preanals, the others have 3. More specimens from western Virginia will be required before it can be determined whether or not a peculiar geographically isolated "local phase" population exists in the